



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

DECEMBER 2003



Prepared by

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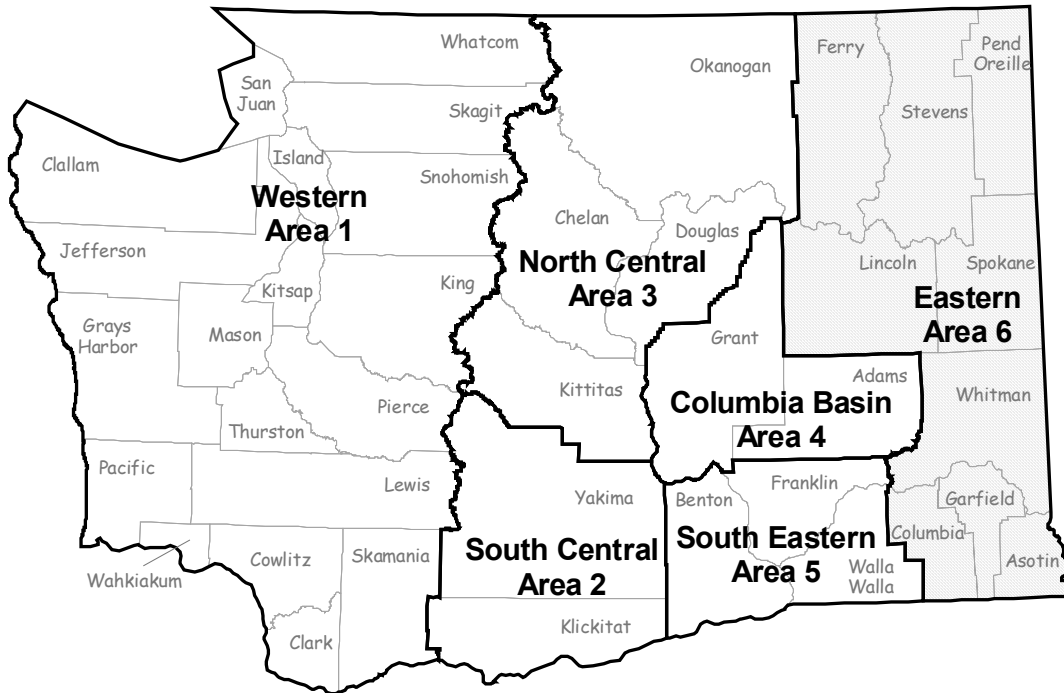
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

DECEMBER 2003

## Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State



### Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas

**Area 1** = Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom

**Area 2** = Klickitat and Yakima

**Area 3** = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan

**Area 4** = Adams and Grant

**Area 5** = Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla

**Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statewide seasonal employment expanded by 14.2% from December 2002 to December 2003. This bump was led by an increase in apple pruning. Crops contributing to an over-the-year increase were apple work (641), nursery work (210), pear work (188), raspberry work (130), grape work (87), other seasonal work (78), other tree fruit work (56), potato work (34), wheat/grain work (31), blueberry work (14) and hop work (2). Declines were experienced in onion work (-158), miscellaneous vegetables work (-116), bulb work (-37) and cherry work (-20). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 14.2%, led by an increase in nursery work (148). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment also forged ahead by 13.7% due to an increase in pear work (521). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment bolted ahead by a whopping 126.4% thanks to large gain in apple work (1,281). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew by 13.8%, due to an increase in apple work (196). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 44.8%, as a result of a large decline in apple work (-742). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment exploded by a whopping 2,150% due to large percentage increase in wheat/grain work (33).

## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

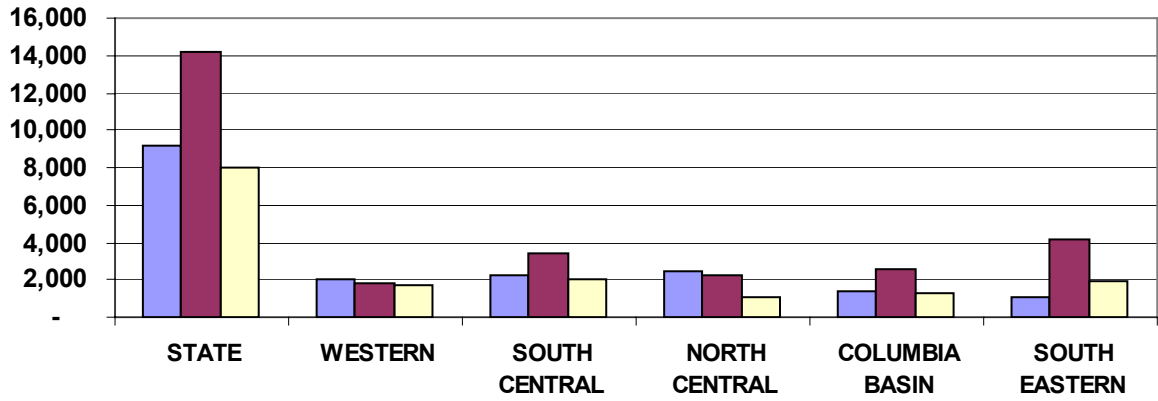
An appeals panel of the World Trade Organization upheld a ruling that Japanese health rules on imported U.S. apples are illegal under international law. The panel rejected all parts of Japan's appeal of the July 15 ruling that struck down measures the Asian country said were needed to protect its own apple trees from fire blight. It ordered Tokyo to change its policies to meet WTO requirements. Tree fruit growers also had more good news with President Bush's lifting of tariffs on foreign steel. Washington apple growers annually ship about 1 million boxes of apples to Europe. The European Union was threatening retaliatory sanctions on \$2.2 billion of U.S. products, including Washington fruit, if Bush didn't lift steel tariffs he imposed 20 months ago to help the U.S. steel industry.

Governor Gary Locke announced that 5 million pounds of fresh potatoes for potato chips are being shipped to South Korea in a \$375,000 deal. Although small amounts of potatoes have been sold to South Korea in the past, Locke said this deal is 10 times larger than any past shipment. The potatoes will be made into chips there. Since late October, about 100 cargo containers of chipping potatoes from Thaemert Farms have been shipped to South Korea through the Port of Seattle. Another 40 containers will be shipped by the end of the year. Thaemert is a 2,000-acre potato farm in George, 20 miles south of Quincy. With Locke's announced deal, Thaemert's shipments of the small, white Pike variety potatoes will jump from 250 to 400 containers next November to December, when potatoes are off season in South Korea.

Although the U.S. Senate recently rejected a bid to open tourism and trade with Cuba, Northwest farmers continue to find a market there for wheat and legumes. Farmers in Idaho and Washington expect to sell about 10,000 metric tons of lentils to Fidel Castro's communist nation this year and a smaller amount of dry peas and chickpeas. That represents more than \$2 million in sales. That is about the same amount that was shipped to Cuba last year, said Tim McGreevy, director of the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council in Moscow.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>DEC 03</u>	<u>NOV 03</u>	<u>DEC 02</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>NOV 03- DEC 03</u>	<u>DEC 02- DEC 03</u>	<u>NOV 03- DEC 03</u>	<u>DEC 02- DEC 03</u>
<b>STATE</b>	9,186	14,153	8,045	(4,967)	1,141	-35.1%	14.2%
<b>WESTERN</b>	2,001	1,779	1,760	222	241	12.5%	13.7%
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	2,237	3,389	2,060	(1,152)	177	-34.0%	8.6%
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	2,436	2,211	1,076	225	1,360	10.2%	126.4%
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	1,417	2,604	1,245	(1,187)	172	-45.6%	13.8%
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>	1,050	4,119	1,902	(3,069)	(852)	-74.5%	-44.8%
<b>EASTERN</b>	45	51	2	(6)	43	-11.8%	2150.0%

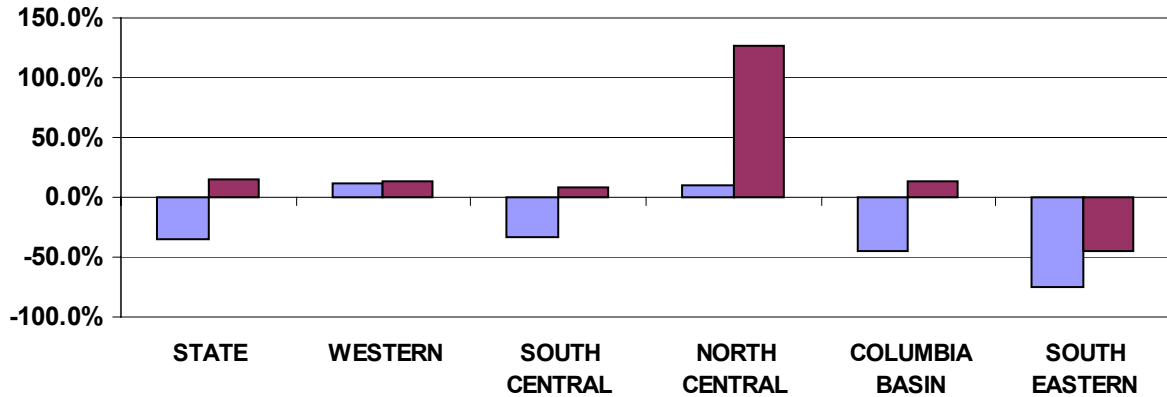
### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



\* Area 6 not shown due to insufficient employment

DEC 03 NOV 03 DEC 02

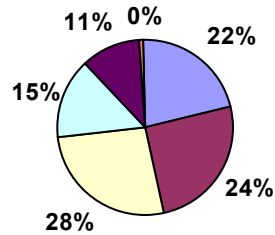
### CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



\*Area 6 not shown due to insufficient employment

NOV 03- DEC 03 DEC 02- DEC 03

### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DECEMBER 2003



WESTERN SOUTH CENTRAL NORTH CENTRAL  
COLUMBIA BASIN SOUTH EASTERN EASTERN

## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment increased 14.2% from December 2002 to December 2003. However, seasonal employment decreased statewide by 35.1% from November 2003 to December 2003. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from December 2002 to December 2003 was apple work (641). Onion work had the greatest decline in employment (-158) for that same time period. Grapes work added the most workers (136) from November 2003 to December 2003. During that same time period, apple work shed the greatest number of jobs (-3,009). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 was \$7.40 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	DEC 03	NOV 03	DEC 02	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03
<b>CROP</b>	<b>DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>DEC 02</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>
Apples	4,402	7,411	3,761	(3,009)	641	-40.6%	17.0%
Blueberry	25	4	11	21	14	525.0%	127.3%
Bulb	63	124	100	(61)	(37)	-49.2%	-37.0%
Cherries	140	123	160	17	(20)	13.8%	-12.5%
Grapes	776	640	689	136	87	21.3%	12.6%
Hop	5	24	3	(19)	2	-79.2%	66.7%
Misc Vegetables	115	302	231	(187)	(116)	-61.9%	-50.2%
Nursery	1,056	1,289	846	(233)	210	-18.1%	24.8%
Onion	379	307	537	72	(158)	23.5%	-29.4%
Other Seasonal	338	393	260	(55)	78	-14.0%	30.0%
Other Tree Fruit	80	35	24	45	56	128.6%	233.3%
Pears	589	1,172	401	(583)	188	-49.7%	46.9%
Potato	653	1,098	619	(445)	34	-40.5%	5.5%
Raspberry	519	806	389	(287)	130	-35.6%	33.4%
Wheat/Grain	45	84	14	(39)	31	-46.4%	221.4%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment expanded by 13.7% from December 2002 to December 2003. This was duplicated by an almost similar increase in seasonal employment of 12.5% from November 2003 to December 2003. Nursery work was the crop activity rising the most (148) in employment from December 2002 to December 2003. Bulb work displayed the largest downturn (-37) in employment for that same time period. Nursery work expanded by the largest upturn in employment (23) from November 2003 to December 2003. Raspberry work retreated by the greatest amount (-287) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.51 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT\*\***

<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>DEC 02</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	25	4	11	21	14	525.0%	127.3%
Bulb	63	124	100	(61)	(37)	-49.2%	-37.0%
Misc Vegetables	34	78	29	(44)	5	-56.4%	17.2%
Nursery	901	878	753	23	148	2.6%	19.7%
Other Seasonal	8	64	20	(56)	(12)	-87.5%	-60.0%
Potato	453	672	458	(219)	(5)	-32.6%	-1.1%
Raspberry	519	806	389	(287)	130	-35.6%	33.4%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment expanded by 8.6% from December 2002 to December 2003. This was contrasted by a large decline of 34.0% from November 2003 to December 2003. Pear work was the crop activity expanding the most (521) in employment from December 2002 to December 2003. Potato work declined by (-316) the largest amount for that same time period. The largest month-to-month growth in employment from November 2003 to December 2003 was grapes work (186). Pear work posted the largest decline in employment (-612) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.78 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>DEC 02</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,143	1,448	1,237	(305)	(94)	-21.1%	-7.6%
Cherries	8	38	44	(30)	(36)	-78.9%	-81.8%
Grapes	471	285	395	186	76	65.3%	19.2%
Hop	5	24	3	(19)	2	-79.2%	66.7%
Misc Vegetables	81	61	24	20	57	32.8%	237.5%
Other Seasonal	0	49	0	(49)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Other Tree Fruit	0	10	33	(10)	(33)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Pears	529	1,141	8	(612)	521	-53.6%	6512.5%
Potato	0	0	316	0	(316)	0.0%	-100.0%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment displayed a net gain of 126.4% from December 2002 to December 2003. This was echoed by a considerably smaller increase of 10.2% in employment in December 2003 over November 2003. The crop activity posting the greatest over-the-year increase in employment from December 2002 to December 2003 was apple work (1,281). Pear work declined by the largest amount (-20) of employment for that same time period. Other tree fruit work experienced the largest increase in employment (43) from November 2003 to December 2003. Apple work experienced the largest decrease in employment (-1,508) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.16 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	DEC 03	NOV 03	DEC 02	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03
CROP							
Apples	2,226	3,734	945	(1,508)	1,281	-40.4%	135.6%
Cherries	68	27	33	41	35	151.9%	106.1%
Other Seasonal	47	32	47	15	0	46.9%	0.0%
Other Tree Fruit	68	25	4	43	64	172.0%	1600.0%
Pears	27	31	47	(4)	(20)	-12.9%	-42.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment expanded by 13.8% from December 2002 to December 2003. This was contrasted by a loss of 45.6% in employment from November 2003 to December 2003. Apple work displayed the greatest upturn (196) in employment from December 2002 to December 2003. Onion work experienced the largest downturn (-156) in employment during that same time period. However, onion work expanded the most (118) in employment from November 2003 to December 2003. Apple work experienced the weakest demand (-1,213) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.18 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	DEC 03	NOV 03	DEC 02	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03	NOV 03- DEC 03	DEC 02- DEC 03
CROP							
Apples	882	2,095	686	(1,213)	196	-57.9%	28.6%
Cherries	23	0	47	23	(24)	0.0%	-51.1%
Misc Vegetables	0	3	0	(3)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Nursery	136	385	85	(249)	51	-64.7%	60.0%
Onion	181	63	337	118	(156)	187.3%	-46.3%
Other Seasonal	17	136	4	(119)	13	-87.5%	325.0%
Pears	33	0	38	33	(5)	0.0%	-13.2%
Potato	145	351	42	(206)	103	-58.7%	245.2%
Wheat/Grain	0	2	0	(2)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment contracted by 44.8% from December 2002 to December 2003. December 2003 employment also retreated by 74.5% from November 2003. Other seasonal work grew by the greatest amount (116) from December 2002 to December 2003. Apple work lost the most employment (-742) during that same time period. Other seasonal work expanded by the largest amount (154) of employment from November 2003 to December 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables experienced the weakest demand (-160) for employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.57 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>DEC 02</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>	<b>NOV 03- DEC 03</b>	<b>DEC 02- DEC 03</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	151	134	893	17	(742)	12.7%	-83.1%
Cherries	41	58	36	(17)	5	-29.3%	13.9%
Grapes	305	355	294	(50)	11	-14.1%	3.7%
Misc Vegetables	0	160	178	(160)	(178)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Nursery	7	11	6	(4)	1	-36.4%	16.7%
Onion	198	244	200	(46)	(2)	-18.9%	-1.0%
Other Seasonal	266	112	150	154	116	137.5%	77.3%
Other Tree Fruit	12	0	12	12	0	0.0%	0.0%
Potato	55	75	119	(20)	(64)	-26.7%	-53.8%
Wheat/Grain	12	12	14	0	(2)	0.0%	-14.3%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Eastern (Area 6)** seasonal employment did not meet the criterion of 500 employees and therefore is not published for the month of December.



## Methodology

The "Agricultural Workforce Report" uses data from the monthly Seasonal Farm Labor Survey. This is a survey of 600 agricultural growers in the state. They report monthly the number of total and seasonal workers by crop, activity, and wage. Both hourly and piece rates are used. "Seasonal" workers for the purpose of the survey are those working less than 150 days per year. The state is grouped into six areas based on agricultural economic similarity. The tables and charts presented compare the seasonal agricultural employment for the state and the six areas for the current month, previous month and year ago. Percentage increases as well as raw numbers are given. The weighted monthly wage for seasonal employment is given for the state and the six areas. Each crop activity having significant employment is noted as a percentage change for previous month and year ago. The crops having the highest gain and highest decline in employment are highlighted in the narrative. The Farm Labor Abstract is also included. This contains the top four crop activities by employment and wage for each of the six areas. Piece rates are given in addition to hourly wages when available and disclosable. Some variation in the reporting of the seasonal data can be attributed to the requirement that employment be reported in the pay period including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Due to the fact that the timing of a given crop's harvest and other activities can be affected by weather and other conditions, periods of peak employment do not always fit precisely within this reporting period. This can lead to some variation of estimated employment by crop when comparing activity in similar time periods. The report is used by economists, growers' associations, educators, state agencies, labor unions and outreach workers.

### Related Ag Links:

Click on <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa> for Washington crop harvest and weather information.

Click on <http://www.usda.gov/oce/oce/labor-affairs/whatsnew.htm> for What's New in Agricultural Employment.

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

## FARM LABOR ABSTRACT DECEMBER 2003

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages is conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department. At least five percent of all growers are surveyed for employment data about seasonal workers, type of crop, work activity, wages and their residence. Based on that data, the Washington employment Security Department develops estimates on the size of the workforce, average wages for each crop activity, and whether workers commute, live within the state, or come in from outside of Washington State. These data are reported for each agricultural area identified as having similar farm labor characteristics and a significant supply/demand for seasonal hired workforce.

### **WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,001 (1,802 local, 89 intrastate, 0 interstate, 6 foreign, 104 unknown origin)

Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	493	\$ 7.10/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	451	\$ 7.92/hr
Raspberry Pruner .....	401	\$ 7.56/hr
Nursery Harvester .....	157	\$ 7.38/hr

### **SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,237 (1,717 local, 180 intrastate, 90 interstate, 240 foreign, 10 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	832	\$ 7.43/hr or \$ 0.31 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner .....	430	\$ 8.02/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.28½ per plant
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	276	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	263	\$ 7.64/hr

### **NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,436 (2,314 local, 118 intrastate, 0 interstate, 4 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	946	\$ 7.50/hr
Apple Worker .....	936	\$ 7.05/hr
Apple Trainer .....	339	Not Available
Cherry Pruner .....	59	Not Available

### **COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,417 (1,256 local, 0 intrastate, 12 interstate, 107 foreign, 42 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	816	\$ 7.18/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 1.00 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	115	\$ 7.10/hr
Misc Onion Pruner .....	99	\$ 7.01/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	79	\$ 7.25/hr

### **SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,050 (887 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 34 foreign, 129 unknown origin)

Chicken Eggs Worker .....	236	\$ 7.80/hr
Grapes Pruner .....	213	\$ 7.01/hr or \$ 0.22 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	198	\$ 7.01/hr
Apple Pruner .....	146	\$ 7.53/hr

### **EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 45 (45 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker .....	11	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Mechanic .....	11	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Irrigator .....	11	\$ 7.50/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	6	\$ 7.01/hr

## Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

Washington State crop harvest timetables are listed below by agricultural areas. The dates may vary considerably due to weather or other conditions.

Note that the five area groupings in the following five timeline charts do not directly match with the six agricultural area groupings that are used in the Seasonal Farm Labor Survey data used in this report.

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Okanogan and Wenatchee Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Apples												
Cherries												
Pears												
Golden Delicious												
Red Delicious												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bellingham and Mount Vernon Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowers												
Cucumbers												
Broccoli												
Cauliflower												
Spinach												
Blueberries												
Raspberries												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Tri-Cities and Walla Walla Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Apricots												
Peaches												
Pears												
Onions												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bingen, Sunnyside and Yakima Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Pears												
Grapes												
Hops												
Vegetables												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Moses Lake Crop Area											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Potatoes												

**SEASONAL FARM LABOR SURVEY**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY**  
**DECEMBER 2003**

**TABLE 1**

**DECEMBER 2003**

**Seasonal Farm Labor Report, Washington State  
Estimated Number of Domestic Seasonal Hired Workers  
by Place of Origin**

Agricultural Reporting Area	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Foreign	Unknown	Area Total
1. Western	1,802	89	0	6	104	2,001
2. South Central	1,717	180	90	240	10	2,237
3. North Central	2,314	118	0	4	0	2,436
4. Columbia Basin	1,256	0	12	107	42	1,417
5. South Eastern	887	0	0	34	129	1,050
6. Eastern	45	0	0	0	0	45
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>8,020</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>9,186</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **WESTERN** (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	2,001
a. Local .....	1,802
b. Intrastate migratory .....	89
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Unknown .....	6
e. Foreign .....	104
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The December 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,838.

2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Most activity was confined to inside equipment repair. However, commercial raspberry growers took advantage of several dry days during the month to begin trellising canes. The only major activity was the production of Christmas trees. Nursery and potato warehouse work also continued.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.51 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry trainer, raspberry worker, pumpkin sorter/grader/packer, blueberry sorter/grader/packer, nursery loader, raspberry planter, nursery irrigator and general farm worker to \$15.00 for miscellaneous vegetables worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 90.1% local, 4.4% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, foreign 0.3% and 5.2% unknown.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

**Area 1: WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	493	\$ 7.10
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	451	\$ 7.92
Raspberry Pruner	401	\$ 7.56
Nursery Harvester	157	\$ 7.38
Nursery Planter	128	\$ 7.08
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Trainer	62	\$ 7.01
Nursery Worker	51	\$ 7.51
Raspberry Worker	46	\$ 7.01
Nursery Vehicle Operator	29	\$10.59
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	29	\$ 7.01
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	25	\$ 7.01
Nursery Loader	14	\$ 7.01
Nursery Weeder	11	\$ 7.54
Raspberry Planter	10	\$ 7.01
Nursery Irrigator	9	\$ 7.01
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	6	\$11.63
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$15.00
Misc Field Crops Harvester	4	\$ 8.57
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.30
Potato Mechanized Harvester	2	\$10.00
General Farm Worker	2	\$ 7.01
Wheat Worker	2	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.51/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTH CENTRAL** (Klickitat, Yakima)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers . . . . .	2,237
a. Local . . . . .	1,717
b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .	180
c. Interstate migratory . . . . .	90
d. Unknown . . . . .	240
e. Foreign . . . . .	10
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mesa, Othello, Royal City, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,850.
  
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Average temperatures ranged from seven degrees above normal to fourteen degrees below normal, with 2.07 inches of precipitation. No anticipated crop damage due to weather conditions was reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple and grapes pruning and pear and apple warehouse work.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.78 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous squash sorter/grader/packer to \$9.51 for apple vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.20 to \$0.28½ per vine for grapes pruning, \$0.50 to \$3.75 per tree for pear pruning to \$0.31 to \$4.50 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
  
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 76.7% local, 8.1% intrastate, 4.0% interstate, foreign 10.7% and unknown 0.5%.
  
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
  
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b> 2,237	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	832	\$ 7.43 or * \$ 0.31 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	430	\$ 8.02 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.28½ per plant
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	276	\$ 8.00
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	263	\$ 7.64
Pear Pruner	253	\$ 8.00 or * \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.75 per tree
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	61	\$ 7.01
Grapes Worker	41	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	27	\$ 8.94
Misc Vegetables Worker	20	\$ 7.18
Apple Vehicle Operator	13	\$ 9.51
Cherry Pruner	8	\$ 7.25
Apple Propper	8	\$ 8.58
Hops Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.78/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **NORTH CENTRAL** (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	2,436
	a. Local .....	2,413
	b. Intrastate migratory .....	118
	c. Interstate migratory .....	0
	d. Unknown .....	4
	e. Foreign .....	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Chelan, Chelan Falls, Orondo, Wenatchee	
	b. Interstate: None	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,778.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Extreme cold temperatures have required increased feeding rates to livestock operations. The timothy hay market is soft, with an abundance of good hay available in most areas of the state. Beef producers received a nasty early Christmas present December 23, when a cow was discovered with BSE. Cattle prices tumbled initially, but have since appeared to stabilize, but lower than before the discovery. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning and training.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.16 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer and cherry preparer to \$9.50 for apple manager. No piece rates were reported. Housing was very limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 95.0% local, 4.8% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.2% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 3: NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Kittitas, Douglas and Okanogan Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 2,436	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	946	\$ 7.50
Apple Worker	936	\$ 7.05
Apple Trainer	339	Not Available
Cherry Pruner	59	Not Available
Nursery Worker	47	\$ 7.02
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	46	\$ 7.24
Pear Pruner	27	\$ 7.40
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	22	\$ 7.01
Cherry Preparation	9	\$ 7.01
Apple Manager	5	\$ 9.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.16/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **COLUMBIA BASIN** (Adams and Grant)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	1,417
a. Local .....	1,256
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	12
d. Unknown .....	107
e. Foreign .....	42
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,177.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Most field activities were curtailed by cold and or snow. Wheat was in fair condition with some potential winter damage. The wheat remains small and susceptible to further damage with unfavorable conditions. Primary agricultural activities were apple and onion pruning and potato and onion warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.18 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous onion pruner, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery worker, apple weeder and apple propper to \$15.00 for miscellaneous field crops tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.20 to \$1.00 per tree for apple pruning. Low cost housing was limited and in short supply. Transportation was provided by the workers.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 88.7% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.8% interstate 7.5% foreign and 3.0% unknown.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,417</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	816	\$ 7.18 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 1.00 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	115	\$ 7.10
Misc Onion Pruner	99	\$ 7.01
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	79	\$ 7.25
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	72	\$ 7.01
Nursery Worker	64	\$ 7.01
Pear Pruner	33	\$ 7.50
Cherry Worker	23	\$ 7.09
Apple Worker	17	\$ 7.25
Apple Weeder	17	\$ 7.01
Potato Loader	10	\$11.00
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	9	\$15.00
General Farm Worker	8	\$ 7.69
Apple Mechanic	8	\$ 8.50
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	8	\$10.00
Apple Trainer	8	\$ 7.25
Apple Propper	8	\$ 7.01
Potato Forklift Driver	8	\$ 7.75
Potato Mechanic	5	\$ 8.25
Potato Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 8.75
Misc Onion Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Potato Worker	3	\$ 8.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.18/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTHEASTERN** (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	1,050
a. Local .....	887
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Unknown .....	34
e. Foreign .....	129
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,228.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Early in the month, some field activity was still in progress. Pruning of the orchards was the major agricultural activity. Soil moisture was adequate and no major problems were reported.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.57 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for grapes pruner, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer and grapes planter to \$15.00 for wheat vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.22 to \$0.30 per plant for grapes pruning. Housing was limited; transportation was provided by the workers.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 84.4% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 3.3% foreign and 12.3% unknown.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 1,050	* = piece rate
Chicken Eggs Worker	236	\$ 7.80
Grapes Pruner	213	\$ 7.01 or * \$ 0.22 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	198	\$ 7.01
Apple Pruner	146	\$ 7.53
Grapes Trainer	68	\$ 7.41
Cherry Pruner	41	\$ 7.19
Potato Worker	25	\$ 8.11
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	21	\$ 8.00
Grapes Planter	15	\$ 7.01
Wheat Vehicle Operator	12	\$15.00
Pear Pruner	12	\$ 7.25
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 7.19
Grapes Worker	9	\$ 7.25
Alfalfa Worker	6	\$ 7.05
Potato Forklift Driver	6	\$ 8.23
Potato Loader	6	\$ 7.26
Potato Manager	6	\$13.02
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	5	\$10.50
Apple Trainer	5	\$ 7.25
Alfalfa Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
Potato Irrigator	3	\$ 8.75
Nursery Vehicle Operator	2	\$14.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.57/hr (weighted average)